



Taylor Bazley &lt;taylor.bazley@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Re: referred by Taylor Bazley re: fund**

1 message

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**sacoja@aol.com** <sacoja@aol.com>

Fri, Dec 15, 2017 at 5:17 PM

To: donnalasman01@gmail.com

Cc: taylor.bazley@lacity.org

Donna--

Thanks so much for looking into this for us and for your suggestions on ways to proceed. I am cc'ing Taylor as he may have some thoughts on those suggestions, or others of his own. I met with the landscape designer this past week and she is making some changes to our plan (including adding some trees). Once she's done we'll get approval, permit and raise the money. I will reach out to Lauren Tucker.

Best  
Saul

In a message dated 12/15/2017 1:29:58 PM Pacific Standard Time, donnalasman01@gmail.com writes:

Hi Saul:

Thanks again for reaching out.

I forwarded your email for review and consideration, and at this time, our executive committee believes that the Chamber may not be the best fit for your project.

The Venice Chamber of Commerce serves to help the business community connect and promote. We also advocate in support of issues that help Venice thrive and prosper.

We do have a committee, the Chamber in Action committee that takes on community-based projects, where we organize members, and help to round up funds, for projects that improve quality of life in Venice. Examples of past projects are the LAPD Pacific Station lobby beautification, and the full restoration of the POW-MIA Mural on Pacific Avenue, just south of Rose. Currently we are coordinating a campaign to bring a flying carousel to Venice ([www.veniceflyingcarousel.com](http://www.veniceflyingcarousel.com)).

While Chamber leadership, and members are working with City and local non-profit organizations to participate in finding solutions to the homeless crises, we believe your neighborhood project is better suited for a 501c3 organization, not a 501c6 organization, as the majority of the donors will likely be residents, not businesses, and will require the charitable contribution status, not the marketing/advertising deduction.

Kiss the Ground, a former Chamber member, may be a good fit for your project. Lauren Tucker is the executive director. Kiss the Ground is the organization that worked on the landscaping for the Beyond Baroque/SPARC property on Venice Blvd.

Please let her know that she was referred by the Venice Chamber.

Good Luck!

**Donna**

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Donna Lasman  
CEO - Venice Chamber of Commerce  
O: 310.822.5425

On Fri, Nov 24, 2017 at 10:40 AM, <sacoja@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Donna--

I was referred to you by Taylor Bazley in Mike Bonin's office. I am spearheading a neighborhood beautification project at the end of Warren Avenue in Venice (just west of Penmar golf course. We have had a bad homeless problem there because it is a rather large parcel of undedicated space. There was a huge encampment there for awhile, though that abated when the area was cleared to replace the western fence of the golf course. While it has not returned, there is increased activity lately. And people really do use the area (or try to) to walk, jog & bike around the course, etc.

Prior to my taking this over, others had developed a landscaping plan and applied for a permit. The permit has lapsed, though Taylor will assist me in getting it renewed. We also plan to revise the plan a little. But ultimately we will need to raise about \$50,000 to get it all done. I plan to fund raise from neighbors, but I would prefer to have some sort of financial vehicle to keep the money (rather than my personal account). Taylor suggested the Chamber of Commerce, which has done this before.

Please let me know if you would be willing to help out and, if so, the procedure to set a fund up.

Thanks so much.

Saul Janson

826 Warren Avenue  
c. (310) 621 3798